

## Message Text

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64

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 AID-05 H-02 SP-02

MMO-01 PER-01 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 IGA-02 EB-07 PM-04 A-01 ACDA-05 EUR-12

NSC-05 EA-07 /105 W

----- 034054

R 261315Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7619

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0300

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AO

SUBJ: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY: ISSUE SPECIFICITY

REFS: A) STATE 13264

B) STATE 303856 DATED 12/29/75

C) LAGOS 716

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY RECEIVED SEVERAL INFORMAL GURC INQUIRIES GENERATED BY PRESS ARTICLES MISLEADINGLY DESCRIBING ZAP POLICY, IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT COINCIDENCE OF US AND GURC POLICIES ON ANGOLA, AND OF APPARENT LINKAGE BETWEEN SALT AND ANGOLAN ISSUES IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS. OUR RESPONSE ELICITED GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF OBJECTIVE INTERDEPENDENCIES, AND WILLINGNESS (1) TO TREAT SPECIFIC ISSUES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS ON THEIR MERITS AS THESE ARE PERCEIVED IN RESPECTIVE NATIONAL INTERESTS, AND (2) NOT TO LET DISAGREEMENTS ON PARTICULAR ISSUES SPOIL OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS, ALONG WITH RECOGNITION OF LIKELY DAMAGE  
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WHICH CONSISTENT PATTERN OF MECHANICAL OPPOSITION TO US IN MULTI-

LATERAL DIPLOMACY WOULD DO TO BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATES TIMELY GUIDANCE PROVIDED REF A WITH TALKING POINTS TO BE USED IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES GENERATED BY PRESS ARTICLES ERRONEOUSLY DESCRIBING ALLEGED ZAP POLICY.

3. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH FORMIN KEUTCHA JAN 22 (SEPTTEL). HE ASKED AMBASSADOR IF IT TRUE THAT US HAD ESTABLISHED "RED LIST" AFTER 30TH UNGA. KEUTCHA WAS USING TERM "RED LIST" RATHER THAN "BLACK LIST" ADVISED. AMBASSADOR USED TALKING POINTS REF A IN RESPONSE, AND ALSO MENTIONED THAT GELB ARTICLE HAD LISTED CAMEROON AMONG COUNTRIES TO BE ZAPPED. HE THEN RECALLED THAT IN EACH OF PREVIOUS CALLS ON MINFONAFF, ON ISSUES OF KOREA, PUERTO RICO, ZIONISM, GUAM AND VIRGIN ISLANDS, WE HAD EMPHASIZED EFFECTS WHICH NEGATIVE GURC ATTITUDE BOUND TO HAVE ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND ESPECIALLY ON AID, IN VIEW OF LIMITED US RESOURCES AND PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL REACTIONS TO DETERIORATING AND APPARENTLY EVER MORE MECHANICAL GURC VOTING PATTERN. AMBASSADOR SAID PROOF OF FALSENESS OF PRESS REPORTS WAS FACT THAT NO US AID PROGRAMS HAD BEEN ELIMINATED, INTERRUPTED, OR POSTPONED. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT CAMEROON WAS REFERRED TO AS ONE OF "OUR FRIENDS" IN RECENT DEPT TELEGRAM.

4. FONMIN AND OTHERS MENTIONED IN PARA 5 INQUIRED ABOUT RECIPROCAL EFFECTS OF SALT AND ANGOLAN ISSUES UPON EACH OTHER IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY SECRETARY'S MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS. WE RESPONDED ON BASIS OF SECRETARY'S JAN 14 PRESS CONFERENCE AND OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS. CONVERSATIONS ELICITED AGREEMENT THAT, IN ANY SET OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHETHER US-SOVIET OR US-GURC, (1) PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO TAKE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE ARE BOUND TO EFFECT OVERALL RELATIONSHIP AND (2) ONE PECULIARITY OF PRESENT AGE OF INTERDEPENDENCE IS DIFFERENTIATION AMONG ISSUES ACCORDING TO RELATIVE IMPORTANCE, IN CONTRAST TO UNDIFFERENTIATED TREATMENT ALL ISSUES TENDED TO RECEIVE DURING COLD WAR.

5. SEVERAL FONMIN OFFICIALS QUESTIONED EMBOFFS ON ZAP SUBJECT AT DINNER JAN 22 TO MEET AF/C DESK OFFICER BLODGETT. FONMIN DIRECTOR GENERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RAISED SUBJECT JAN 23 AT MEETING TO DISCUSS CIEC (SEPTTEL) AND MEET BLODGETT.

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6. IN ALL CASES, GURC OFFICIALS LISTENED TO OUR EXPLANATIONS, SEEMED TO ACCEPT THEM AS REASONABLE, AND APPEARED TO REACT POSITIVELY TO AMBASSADOR'S COMPARISON BETWEEN COLD WAR PERIOD, WHEN LINES WERE SIMPLE AND RIGID, DISAGREEMENTS WERE ACROSS THE BOARD, VOTING WAS BY BLOCS, AND BILATERAL QUARREL ON ANY ONE ISSUE REGARDLESS OF "OBJECTIVE" IMPORTANCE RUINED RELATIONS ON ALL OTHERS; WITH CURRENT PERIOD OF AWARENESS OF INTERDEPENDENCE, KALEIDOSCOPICALLY SHIFTING ALIGNMENTS, AND CONSEQUENT NEED TO TREAT

SPECIFIC ISSUES ON THEIR MERITS, WITH OBVIOUS CONSEQUENCES WHICH MECHANICAL ATTITUDES AND VOTING PATTERNS ARE BOUND TO HAVE ON OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS.

7. COMMENT: GURC OFFICIALS KEEP ITERATING THEIR "FRIENDSHIP" WITH ALL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH CAMEROON MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, INCLUDING USSR, PRC, BOTH KOREAS, AND AFRICANS ALL THE WAY FROM ZAMBIA TO GUINEA (WHOSE ATTACKS ON CAMEROON AS IMPERIALIST STOOGES AT OAU THEY DEEPLY RESENT). AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ALSO REPEATEDLY BRING UP MEMORIES OF THEIR SUCCESSFUL FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNIST SUPPORTED INSURGENCY, AND MAKE COMPARISONS BETWEEN NEGLIGIBLE SOVIET DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND LARGE US AID PROGRAMS SINCE INDEPENDENCE, EVEN THOUGH THESE ARE TODAY MUCH LESS IMPORTANT THAN EUROPEANS'. AS SELF-CONSCIOUS MICROCOSM OF AFRICA, WITH DEEP AND ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN OAU, UN, NON-ALIGNED GROUP, CAMEROONIANS ARE MORE AWARE THAN MOST AFRICANS OF FACTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF INTERDEPENDENCE. THEIR NEIGHBORS INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS AFRICAN "GIANTS" NIGERIA AND ZAIRE, AND RADICAL AND/OR ERRATIC REGIMES OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND CONGO. AS A RESULT, GURC HAS ELABORATED A SUBTLE, PRUDENT, DIFFERENTIATED DIPLOMACY. WHILE IT IS "EXISTENTIALLY" PART OF THIRD WORLD AND WANTS TO BE ACCEPTED AS SUCH, CAMEROON KNOWS IT CANNOT DEAL WITH OTHERS UNDER SIMPLE BLOC LABELS. IT THEREFORE PURSUES MORE ISSUE-SPECIFIC POLICIES THAN MOST THIRD WORLDERS. LIKE NIGERIA AT PRESENT (REF C), GURC DURING PERIOD OF OUR UNGA-RELATED DEMARCHES (SEE PARA 3 ABOVE) SHOWED NO SIGNS OF RESENTMENT, GENERALIZED HOSTILITY, OR INCLINATION TO LET OTHER BILATERAL RELATIONS BE AFFECTED. EVEN THOUGH GURC VOTED WRONG TO UNGA AND WE MADE US DISPLEASURE AND DISAPPOINTMENT PERFECTLY CLEAR BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER, PRESIDENT AHIDJO READILY RECEIVED ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFEL, WHOSE VISIT HAD INTENDED EFFECT AND WAS GIVEN VERY FAVORABLE PUBLICITY. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GURC'S REMARKABLE UNDERSTANDING OF INTERDEPENDENCE, DIFFERENTIATION, AND ISSUE-CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFICITY.

8. DEPT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, LOBBYING, ALLEGATIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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